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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Steven H. Cate, et al.
SERIAL NO. : 09/674,399
FILED : November 26, 2002
TITLE : METHOD AND MEANS FOR FILLING NATURAL CASING
SAUSAGES
Group/A.U. : 3643
Examiner : Richard Thomas PRICE, JR.
Conf. No. : 8426
Docket No. : P03958US1-137

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2004

GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.97(e)

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-2350

Dear Sir:

Attached are Forms PT0/SB/08A and 08B (formerly PTO-1449) listing the relevant art known to Applicant herein. A copy of the listed reference is enclosed.

Applicant submits that U.S. Patent Nos. 3,150,410; 3,672,001; 3,952,370; 5,813,907; and 5,830,050 are each items of information contained in this information disclosure statement which were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Applicant is also re-submitting European Patent Application 0 568 372 and Japanese Patent No. 6007073 which were each cited in Applicants' IDS filed April 29, 2003 and

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed documents were sent by First Class Mail with proper postage affixed and addressed to Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 28th day of January, 2004.

02/06/2004 BSAYAS11 00000037 09674399

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Donald H. Zarley

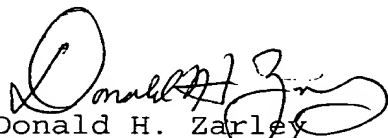
noted by the Examiner on December 27, 2003 on Form PTO/SB/08A that the entries on each of these cited references as "incomplete entry, need to finish." Therefore, Applicants re-submits these cited references. Applicant submits herewith the patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. §197(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

Applicant also encloses herewith the fee set forth in C.F.R. § 1.17(p). However, consider this a request for any to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098 which may have been inadvertently omitted by Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,



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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known			
				Application Number	09/674,399		
				Filing Date	November 26, 2002		
				First Named Inventor	Steven H. Cate, et al.		
				Art Unit	3643		
				Examiner Name Attorney Docket Number	Richard Thomas PRICE, JR. P03958US1-137		
Sheet	1	OF	1				

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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(1) Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). (2) See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. (3) Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3.) (4) For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. (5) Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. (6) Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.